Advertisements on cigarettes, tobacco and wine

†3956. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether some advertisements of cigarettes, tobacco and wine were telecast/being telecast by private TV channels during last three years;

whether obscene pictures are also being telecast on large scale by these channels;

whether Government has received suggestions or memoranda to ban the telecast as such advertisements/obscene pictures or to impose legal ban on it during last three years
till date; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No complaint of direct advertisement of such products has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, cases of brand extension advertisements have been noticed.

No, Sir.

and (d) Some complaints regarding advertisements of brand extension and obscenity have been brought to the notice of the Government from time to time. A Committee had been constituted for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act 1955 and the rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 5.3.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry *www.mib.nkin* under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008." Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into specific violations of Programme and Advertising Codes which recommends action to be taken against the channels for such violation based on which decision is taken by the Government.

Asbestos factories and mines in the country

3957. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether asbestos is dangerous for the health and how many asbestos factories and mines operating in the country and the number of workers are working there;

whether Government is also importing asbestos; if so, the details thereof;

whether Government has any plan completely ban asbestos; and

if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES); (a) Yes, Sir, prolonged exposure to asbestos is dangerous for the health. The State-wise information on number of asbestos factories registered under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.